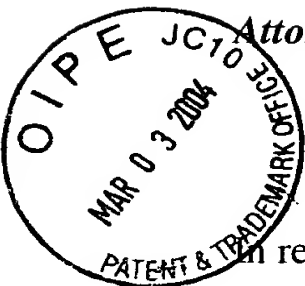


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Attorney Docket 60680-1378

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: SHAH, et al.

Serial No.: 09/708,965 Group Art Unit: 1711
Filed: 11/08/2000 Examiner: Bissett, Melanie D.
For: EPOXY NITRILE INSULATOR AND SEAL FOR FUEL
CELL ASSEMBLIES

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 CFR §1.104(e)**

Dear Sir:

Applicants have received the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance with the December 1, 2003, Notices of Allowance and Allowability regarding the above-identified application. Entry of the Statement into the record should not be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence in the reasoning stated by the Examiner. Each of the claims stands on its own merits and is patentable because of the combination it recites and not because of the presence or absence of any one particular element.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

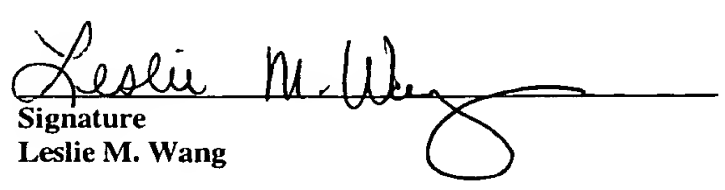
MAILING

X deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: March 1, 2004

FACSIMILE

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Signature
Leslie M. Wang

The Examiner's Statement was not prepared by Applicant and only contains the Examiner's possible positions in one or more reasons for allowability. Thus, any interpretation with respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be imputed to the Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

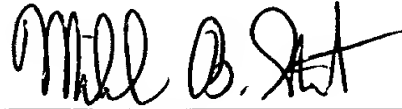
Dated: March 1, 2004

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